

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126474

20

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARN: DAKORN: JMP

6/27/73 EXT 22670

APPROVED BY NEA: JJSISCO

OSD/ISA - COL. PRADOS

NEA/IRN - MR. MIKLOS

PM/MAS - MR. NORLAND

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S - O: W. NEWLIN

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R 272319 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T STATE 126474

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 4476

1. STATE 124050 GIVING PARTIAL USG RESPONSE TO LEBANESE ARMS REQUEST BEING REPEATED YOU FOR YOUR BACKGROUND.
2. CARDINAL POINT IS, AS YOU TOLD ALAM IN CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL, UNDESIRABILITY OF HAVING GOI ACT AS MIDDLE-MAN. YOU SHOULD REITERATE THAT WE SEE NO POINT IN GOI PROCURING EQUIPMENT FROM USG SIMPLY FOR RESALE TO GOL.
3. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS TRANSFER BY IRAN TO LEBANON OF U. S. ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT ALREADY SOLD TO IRAN. IN THIS REGARD, FROM OUR SOUNDINGS IN BEIRUT WE THINK IT IS CLEAR THAT LEBANESE

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ARMY IS NOT SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN F-5 BUT WANTS A-4; WE HAVE LEBANESE REQUEST FOR 16 A-4 B OR C AIRCRAFT UNDER STUDY AND HOPE BE IN POSITION TO REPLY TO GOL SHORTLY. RE TANKS, MAIN PROBLEM FROM USG POINT OF VIEW IS THAT OF AVAILABILITY; LEAD TIME FOR SUPPLY OF M-60 S IS CURRENTLY TWO YEARS. THERE ARE ALSO PROBLEMS RE AVAILABILITY M-48- A3. IF IRAN IS READY TO PROVIDE LEBANON M60 TANKS ALREADY IN ITS INVENTORY WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY A REQUEST

FOR TRANSFER. (IF DESIRED, REPLACEMENTS BY USG FOR EQUIPMENT IRAN MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE TO LEBANON WOULD BE SUPPLIED ON SALES BASIS AND UNDER NORMAL PROCUREMENT LEAD TIMES.) SAME WOULD BE GENERALLY TRUE FOR OTHER ITEMS ALREADY IN IRANIAN INVENTORY WHICH LEBANESE MIGHT REQUEST, THOUGH OF COURSE EACH ITEM WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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